

Public Notice

In reply refer to

Issuance Date:

Public Notice No. 200201129-2

February 20, 2004

Stream:

Expiration Date:

Pond Rui

March 21, 2004

Address comments to:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

502 Eighth Street ATTN: CELRH-F

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the Corps of Engineers' request to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application.

APPLICANT:

Parkersburg Utility Board

125 Nineteenth Street

Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101-2596

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in jurisdictional wetlands adjacent to and in Pond Run, in Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia.

DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to place fill material in conjunction with the expansion of the 19th Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. The applicant proposes to increase peak flow from 21 million gallon per day (mgd) to 26 mgd. Expansion is needed for the addition and upgrade of facilities and equipment required to improve processing capacity. Approximately 950 linear feet of Pond Run would be filled in conjunction with the relocation of a stream. The new stream channel length would total approximately 1,250 linear feet. The project includes installing approximately 810 linear feet of sanitary sewer system to the Ohio River. Work would include both a 35' force main and 36' gravity flow ductile iron outfall pipe. Approximately 250 cubic yards of riprap would be installed below the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation.

The project would also involve impacts to 3.28 acres of wetlands consisting of forested, scrubshrub, and emergent types. Site grading and earthwork would include the removal of approximately 1,550 cubic yards of miscellaneous fill and tires within previously filled portions of the site. The area would then be backfilled and graded to an approximate final elevation of 596 feet. Approximately 18,000 cubic yards of fill is anticipated to be utilized for the facility expansion.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS: This project is not considered to be water dependent; therefore the applicant is required to demonstrate that other less damaging practicable alternatives are not available that would achieve the applicant's goal. The applicant submitted an alternative analysis that is currently being reviewed. No permit will be issued until our review of the alternative analysis clearly shows that upland alternatives are not available to achieve the applicant's goal.

MITIGATION PLAN: To compensate for stream impacts, the applicant has submitted a conceptual mitigation plan. The applicant has proposed to establish a riparian buffer zone consisting of riparian vegetation along the channel and to provide "soft" slope stabilization using permanent geotextiles and environmentally sensitive erosion matting on channel banks. To mitigate for wetland impacts the applicant has proposed to enhance or protect existing wetlands located in or adjacent to the 37 acre Johnson T. Janes Park that was established in 1992 by the City. At a minimum, 43 acres of existing wetlands would be enhanced or protected in-perpetuity by the applicant.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain certification from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and it has been determined there are no properties currently listed on the register that are in the area affected by the project. A copy of this public notice will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review. Comments concerning archeological sensitivity of a project area should be based upon collected data.

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Huntington District has consulted the most recently available information and has determined the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW AND COMMENT: Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by the activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by this activity.

Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; of those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production,

mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or and Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please call Ms. Sarah M. Workman of the South Regulatory Section at 304-399-5710.

Lings Mullins, Chief Regulatory Branch

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